threatened by an alliance of the native Moslems with Temim, the Zirid prince of Tunis, By the terms of this, the Sultan's two sons, Ayub and AH, came with a strong fleet and army to Sicily. In the summer of 1063 an army of Africans and Sicilians marched from Palermo upon Roger's western outpost, Troina. The Norman, however, advanced to meet them, and gave them a complete overthrow at Cerami, an epical battle in which he himself, his nephew Serlo, and his lieutenant Arisgot of Pozzuoli proved themselves heroes, The victory was received at Rome with enthu-siasm; the Pope sent a holy banner, and pro-claimed the war a crusade.

Moslem dissensions played the Norman game, and the sons of Temim found themselves opposed by those whom they had come to save, In 1068 Roger overthrew Ayub at Misilmeri near Palermo, and the African party vanished with the return of the latter to Tunis. There was now no one left to unite the Moslems and oppose a single front to the invaders.

All this while the line of Norman advance hat! been along the north coast towards the capital, The capture of Palermo was all-important for the conquest, and a city so wealthy and splendid

roused the cupidity of the Norman leaders. The strategic eye could moreover see that, once taken, it would be easy to hold, with its long and noble harbour, and the chain of mountains that completely encircled it.